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Mr & G file

9 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Notes on COMIREX Mapping, Charting,
and Geodesy Working Group Meeting of
7 January 1969

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1. [REDACTED] started the meeting by saying that only one subject would be discussed, namely the scheduling of the Doppler Transit/Beacon on a KH-4B mission. He noted that a "permissive" directive had been sent to Dr. Flax by the USIB indicating agreement to the introduction of the Transit/Beacon on a KH-4B to be scheduled for the "summer" of 1969. He said that [REDACTED] was to inform the members on the current status of the situation.

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2. [REDACTED] stated that on 23 December 1968 Dr. Flax had approved inclusion of the Transit/Beacon with KH-4B system but not specifically for the July 1969 mission.

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[REDACTED]

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3. He said that the USIB's agreement that the NRO add the Doppler beacon to KH-4B systems beginning in the summer of 1969 (USIB-D-46.4/24) was interpreted by Dr. Flax as concurrence if the DoD requested it. It evolved that Dr. Flax apparently does not buy the Air Staff requirement of the June 1970 IOC for the MM-12. He felt that Mission 1110 in March 1970 should be adequate if such timing is not too incompatible with Air Force real needs. The funding of [REDACTED] to cover the Transit/Beacon on the KH-4Bs for four missions--March, May, July, and September 1970--appears to present no problem.

NRO review(s) completed.

[REDACTED]

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5. [] spoke for the working group by saying that they were seriously concerned with the delay; that the requirement had been passed through supposedly correct channels to Dr. Flax and there seems to be trouble about what are the proper and effective procedures with regard to handling DoD approved MC&G requirements for final action by the Intelligence Community and, finally, Dr. Flax. It appeared that Dr. Flax unilaterally felt that the summer of 1969 did not reflect the firm requirements for collecting improved target positioning data for the MM-12. [] said this determination was based on Air Staff studies. [] suggested that there must be some split in thinking within the Air Force. (Later, I was informed that he has found that the Air Staff is becoming more lenient but there is no slippage in the IOC.) At least a six to nine month lead time is necessary for data reduction in the MC&G community prior to submittal of improved geodetic positioning for targets.

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6. [] thought it would take another 6-8 months to get all the hardware for the Transit/Beacon. This means everything would be needed by 1 February 1969 for July 1969. This is almost too tight to be realistic.

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7. [] then explained that the whole system is experiencing some troubles -- is sick. Several things have happened. The men who were initially involved have left, and now they only have second stringers working on correcting the emerging hardware problems. He feels it would be better to get the system working right without putting on some new equipment as early as the KH-4 Mission 1107. Several agreed that this made sense. (There was some rumble as to whether the MM-12's IOC was all that important and that its FOC was a more realistic final date.) [] said that if the Air Force requirement could be bent a little it would be best to forget about July 1969.

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8. [] indicated to me that the working group will not oppose the omission of the ~~Transit~~/Beacon on the KH-4B July 1969 mission for reasons stated during the meeting. However, he is concerned, as are others, as to the role of COMIREX and USIB in obtaining fulfillment of MC&G requirements and regarding the apparent interpretations that still seem to persist.

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